GOING AFTER YOUR DATA
Is online privacy a right or a privilege?
PAGE 8
It was perfectly fine. I think that everything — children and elderly people’s immune systems."

NURSE ASHLEY SMITH
School nurse, on covid-19’s possible impact.

I feel like his life story can improve our time and start our dreams now instead of just later and maybe when we want to do it.”

ANTHONY ASIS
Student, on the Build a Tree motivational assembly on March 3.

AcaDec competitions consist of 10 events: multiple choice tests in art, economics, math, social science, literature and science. These standards often disregarded women of color, gender nonconforming women, and anyone who was seen to be outside of the sphere of Euro-American “beauty.”

It is not just archaic beauty standards that haunt the women of today. We are dogged by patriarchy at every step, moving through the world on constant defense. Ask any of your female friends if she has been catcalled, sexually assaulted or made to feel less than by a man because she was simply not one of his kind. I guarantee she will have experienced at least one of these things.

From every step we take, we are held to a different standard than our male counterparts, whether that be in the workplace, in our education or in the home. From birth, we are expected to be consistently silent and submissive to stay down, and let the men take center stage. I can’t recall how many times I’ve been called bossy or rude for simply filling the same space and taking the same actions as my male counterparts did. Women are held to a harsh double standard in today’s world. This narrative, at least in the West, is changing thanks to the women who came before us: women who fought against a society in which their fight seemed doomed to fail.

These women looked out onto a world in which their fundamental rights were suppressed. Fundamental American ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were not — and arguably are still not entirely — granted to women until the previous century.

Women only achieved the right to vote in 1919 with the 19th Amendment after over 70 years of suffragettes fighting tooth and nail. Indigenous women achieved the right to vote state by state, with Utah being the last state to recognize Native American Women’s Suffrage in 1946. Black women couldn’t vote across the U.S. until 1965 when all the barriers which should have been lifted with the creation of the 18th Amendment were finally removed. Black women were also excluded from much of the early women’s suffrage movement because of systemic racism.

American women couldn’t even open their own credit card accounts until 1974 when the Equal Credit Opportunity Act was passed. Up until then they remained hostage in marriage and under the financial control of their husbands. Marital rape was fully legal and recognized as a consensual form of sexual contact until 1993 when it was finally criminalized in all 50 states.

Such recent and rapid changes are all thanks to women who defied the conventions of a patriarchal society — women who stood up and spat in the face of the men who told them to stay quiet. We owe everything to them. "The history of progress is written in the blood of men and women who have dared to espouse an unpopular cause, as, for instance, the black man’s right to his body, or woman’s right to her soul," wrote Anarchist, feminist, revolutionary and writer Emma Goldman.

The women who came before us have spilled blood. They have ached for the liberation of their souls. American women have come far as a whole. We have fought against every patriarchal device which holds us, have pushed so hard for everything we have gained, but there is still so much more work to be done. We as American women cannot say we live in an equitable society until every woman in every corner of the world is free, until every woman truly owns her soul and body. When that day comes, I hope at least a drop of my blood is used to write the history that led to it.
**Back to the Moon: “A huge step for humanity”**

By OSCAR JIMENEZ

It has been nearly 50 years since a human being has visited Earth’s nearest planetary neighbor. The last man who stepped on the Moon’s surface was Eugene Cernan. He did it as part of the Apollo 17 crew in 1972.

Since then, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the US space agency, has relied primarily on robotic missions to explore our solar system, sending probes to study the Moon, Venus, Mars and the outer planets.

But now NASA plans to land the first woman and next man on the Moon as soon as 2024 to continue mankind’s exploration of the lunar surface.

NASA has named this new mission Artemis for the goddess of the Moon and twin sister of Apollo, the name of NASA’s previous mission to the Moon.

NASA will be taking applications for the next class group of Artemis Generation astronauts from March 2 to 31, 2020.

The space agency’s plan for the next Moon landing is already in the works with hopes to establish a lunar base by 2030.

The first lunar base will be constructed underground and will include a biological experiment and research as announced by the International Lunar Exploration Working Group, a public forum sponsored by the world’s space agencies including NASA.

The base will adapt a streamlined design, adapting to the Moon’s rising and falling surface.

It will also be equipped with an emergency underground shelter and workers will have individual working and sleeping units.

Eventually, NASA hopes to add a greenhouse to house fresh vegetables, fruits and crops for the people living inside.

Scientists will also conduct experiments to search for iron ore and water.

The material of the base will be able to maintain the internal temperature and prevent oxygen leakage making it habitable for humans.

Ultimately, NASA hopes to send greater numbers of people to live on the Moon once the outpost can support itself.

NASA is laying the foundation that will eventually enable human exploration of Mars through the Artemis program and deeper exploration of the Moon, testing different technologies and resources that may eventually allow humans to colonize other planets.

Back to the Moon is a huge step for humanity because it means we are no longer to be able to travel and see the Moon and maybe soon we can also send people to Mars,” he said. “It’s awesome that we are progressing and sending the first woman to the Moon. We are going to witness a lot of this in our lives.”

**COVID-19 UPDATE: California declares health emergency**

By ANI TUTUNJYAN

A confirmed cases of COVID-19, more commonly known as coronavirus, continue to rise worldwide and the concern of it becoming a pandemic alarms many Americans.

Americans are beginning to question how the outbreak will affect them. Since the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has announced that there is no immediate public threat in Los Angeles at this time.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health and part of the president’s COVID-19 task force, warned that at some point, schools may have to close to stem the spread of the virus. Japan has closed its schools for at least one month.

It is unknown how LAUSD will handle parent and student preferences to continue or discontinue classes if they become necessary, but Superintendent Austin Beutner’s video suggests that closure time would have to be made up at the end of the semester.

As of printing, there are 14 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Los Angeles County. On March 4, LA County declared a public health emergency to address issues such as staffing resources.

None of the cases are believed to be community spread as all the individuals were exposed to COVID-19 through close contacts with others who were infected.

LAUSD recommends taking the same precautions students would to prevent any other disease such as the influenza. This includes regularly washing your hands, taking at least 20 seconds, avoiding unnecessary touching of your eyes, nose or mouth, covering a sneeze or cough and staying at home when you have a fever or are sick.

In a recent video updating parents and students on the District’s plans for COVID-19, Superintendent explained that the District is working closely with experts in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, California Department of Education and more to monitor the progression of the virus to be prepared to respond to any threats.

“The health experts at the county and CDC will provide us with information as they have it, as well as specific instructions on school operations in the event of any occurrence of the virus in our school community,” he said.

The District is also creating a plan in the case that there is community spread.

“We’re also making plans for learning to continue from home if any schools were to closed, as well as the possibility of extending the school year to make up for disruption in the school calendar if necessary,” Beutner said in the video message.

“The coronavirus is a known virus and it has been around for a long time,” school nurse Ashley Smith said. “It affects a lot of chronically ill kids and elderly people’s immune systems. Just like everything else, people that are generally healthy, it doesn’t affect.”

Smith believes that students should be alert, not anxious. She explains that Los Angeles along with many other cities and the CDC have long prepared for a pandemic outbreak.

“If [coronavirus] is just like anything else,” she said. “Whole cities and countries have been preparing for this so this isn’t some thing that we are totally unprepared for.”

Each classroom was supplied with a bottle of alcohol-free hand sanitizer to encourage students to practice proper hand hygiene. Teachers have also received supplies with disinfectant to clean desks and other surfaces.

There has been a run on most cleaning and sanitizing agents and most area stores are sold out.

The prospect of school closing as a result of a coronavirus outbreak has raised concern among teachers who are unsure of whether they will be paid or not during that period.

“It would be up to the state of California because LAUSD gets paid by the state of California when you [students] show up to school,” UTLA representative and school board chair Mr. Robert Crosby said. “If LA Unified gets paid, then they will pay teachers. It depends on what the state of California does, and there’s no word yet on what the state of California will do.”

The CDC addressed the rapidly evolving virus during a telebriefing update on COVID-19 during which they highlighted the possibility of a pandemic and community spread in the U.S.

Currently there are no official vaccines on the market for coronavirus but Moderna Therapeutics, a biotech company based in Cambridge, Mass. that just shipped the first batches of its COVID-19 vaccine for trials.

The first clinical trials were sent to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases part of the National Institutes of Health, which will prepare the vaccine for human testing early as March. Government companies and health experts say any potential vaccine is a minimum 18 months away from coming on the market.
College loans: Could where you go to college come back to bite you when you graduate?

Loan companies may be discriminating against students attending Black and Hispanic colleges by charging them higher fees and interest rates

By Mhar Tenorio & Stephanie Caceres

The study also uncovered that Wells Fargo, a San Francisco-based bank that offers student loans, sometimes charges community college students more for loans than it charges four-year college students. Using the bank’s online loan estimator, SBPC input data for a hypothetical community college borrower and a four-year student borrower, uncovering that Wells Fargo charges $1,124 more on a $10,000 loan for a community college student. In California, a little over 50 percent of community college students are either Hispanic or African American. Both Upstart and Wells Fargo have rejected these claims from the SBPC.

The study also stated that HBCU students borrow around $41,385 more, on average, compared to other students. HBCUs, however, typically cost less than other institutions. For college students who graduated in 2012, a study from Student Loan Hero, a company helping borrowers manage their student debt, found that Hispanic and African American students from four-year public and private non-profit universities graduated with higher amounts of debt.

SBPC urges financial services to publish data regarding these practices and their effects on individual borrowers in a press release statement.

“Moreover, according to the SBPC, will empower lawmakers, regulators, and the general public to increase oversight and to take immediate action on practices possibly violating their lending limits. “It is time for law enforcement to act,” said Proftman.

Fundraising with a twist

A new twist on the charity drive is coming: Penny Wars. Associated Student Body (ASB) will place donation boxes in all classrooms, where students can put any kind of money into the boxes. Students can put any kind of money into the boxes in order to collect points and treatments. Students can put any kind of money into the boxes in order to collect points. The grand prize for the fourth period with the highest point total will be a pizza party.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society was born out of a family’s grief following the leukemia death of their 16-year-old son in 1944. Since then, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society has been raising the price of interest rates for students attending Black or Latino colleges by charging them higher fees and interest rates.
March is the month dedicated to appreciating and acknowledging the impact women have made in the past and today. The celebration of women’s history began with a single day, International Women’s Day, which then evolved into National Women’s History week in 1980. The celebration of women’s history began with a single day, International Women’s Day, which then evolved into National Women’s History week in 1980. The celebration of women’s history began with a single day, International Women’s Day, which then evolved into National Women’s History week in 1980. The celebration of women’s history began with a single day, International Women’s Day, which then evolved into National Women’s History week in 1980. The celebration of women’s history began with a single day, International Women’s Day, which then evolved into National Women’s History month officially proclaimed this month as “Women’s History Month” in 1987. Women have made significant changes in history, such as abolitionists like Harriet Tubman, or authors like Anne Frank. “I think it’s important that we uplift the stories of all women, especially those belonging to marginalized groups instead of focusing solely on white/European women, which I feel Women’s History Month generally focuses on,” says senior Caitlin O’Neil.

While junior Cristal Ludena appreciates the celebration of women’s impacts in history, she wishes “we didn’t have to celebrate basic human rights that should have been entitled to them long ago.” To revere women’s capabilities and talents, here are women from all over the globe who have made huge impacts in society.

**SANDRA SANCHEZ**

CORAZON AQUINO was the first female President of the Philippines. She helped restore the country after the authoritarian rule of Ferdinand Marcos.

**HAIFAA AL MANSOUR** is known to be the first female filmmaker in her country who, while being very controversial, is considered one of the best in Saudi Arabia.

**MAYA ANGELOU** was an American poet who, through her writing, encouraged the Black community in America to fight for civil rights.

**ADA LOVELACE** was a mathematician who was known for her work on the Analytical Engine, the first computer. This led her to be one of the first computer programmers.

**SELENA QUINTANILLA** is a very respected icon in Mexico. She was a Mexican-American singer. She continues to influence the Spanish community with her legacy.

**ISABEL PERON** was the President of Argentina from 1974-1976. She was the first female to serve as President in a South American country.

**PRUDENCE MABELE** was made the first health minister of India in 1947. She was a women’s activist and politician associated with the Indian Independence Movement during British colonisation.

**RAJUMANI AMRIT KAUR** was named the first health minister of India in 1947. She was a women’s activist and politician associated with the Indian Independence Movement during British colonisation.

**YAYOI KUSAMA** is an internationally acclaimed artist from Japan. She works in different media but is most famous for performance and installation art. She is currently the most expensive living artist, with one of her art pieces selling for $72 million in 2019.

**DOLORES HUERTA** is a Mexican American who fought for economic conditions for farm workers. She was also a civil rights activist who stood up for discrimination. Till this day she continues to fight for women’s rights, immigrants and women.

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**Siblings steal your clothes, tell on you, and fight with you; but at the end of the day, they can be your greatest friends. After all, it’s nice to have a friend throughout your life, especially if you were born at the same time.**

Hayley Simpson and her other three siblings were born at the same time, making them quadruplets.

Hayley shared her mother’s womb with her two sisters, Ella and Emma, and her brother, Jordan.

The quadruplets are fraternal, which means they were the result of four different eggs that were fertilized individually. They are not identical.

Quadruplets are extremely unusual. According to the National Institutes of Health, they generally occur in only one out of 677,000 births. In 2018, there were 471,500 live births in California.

Even though it is such a rare occurrence, Hayley thinks that her childhood was pretty uneventful. “It was fun and you always had someone to be with,” she said. “I consider my siblings to be the friends that I will always have.”

For Hayley, having many siblings is rewarding. She said, “I like having siblings my age because they are able to understand me. I can count on him to be there,” said Lilit.

The twins do many things together, including going to the same events and sharing the same friend groups. Generally, if one does something, the other does too. “Taking turns to chauffeur one another to school and back home is also a daily part of the Ohanian’s routine.”

Both the Gonzalez twins and the Ohanian twins share the advantages of being twins or quadruplets. “They’re great, smart, funny kids who probably have a stranger, more unusual bond than most strangers,” Ms. Fuhrman said. “Sometimes it was like you could never be left alone,” she said.

With almost everything they do, they have to do together, even to the point of dragging the other into doing something they don’t enjoy doing, like sharing birthdays.

The same holds true for the Gonzales twins. “With being so close, we often get scolded for the same things and sometimes that means if one of us gets in trouble, we both technically get in trouble,” Stella said. A downside to having and raising twin boys for Ms. Fuhrman is that expenses double. “It’s a lot more money,” she said. “There are a lot more dental bills now that they’re older; a lot more money for clothes and food. A lot more money for everything.”

But in the end, having twins, triplets or quadruplets can also be a source of joy. “People were so excited when they saw them, you could see it in their faces and hear it in their voices,” Ms. Fuhrman said. “Their eyes would light up and their voices would get higher. Twins have been a lot of work but it’s been a great, unexpected delight.”

**Perspective**

**By ANDREA HERNANDEZ & ESTEFANIA LOPEZ**

**THE MIRROR STAFF**

**DOUBLE (and quadruple) TROUBLE**

Siblings steal your clothes, tell on you, and fight with you; but at the end of the day, they can be your greatest friends. After all, it’s nice to have a friend throughout your life, especially if you were born at the same time.

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**Secret language of twins**

Up to 40 percent of twins develop their own special language only they are able to speak and understand.

Source: National Institutes of Health

**Quadruplets**

Fraternal siblings (L to R) Emma, Hayley, Ella and Jordan Simpson.

**Identical**

Ms. Diana Fuhrman’s twin sons Benjamin (L) and Frederick (R).

**Fraternal**

Sophia and Stella, fraternal twins. Left: Jordan Simpson, treasurer of Senior Board, and, John Ohanian, the vice-pres-
BILINGUAL+
Speaking in 43 tongues

Language is a key to understanding other cultures. Having an extremely diverse student body, the campus is a microcosm of Los Angeles, teeming with people who bring with them their rich cultures and a multitude of different languages.

Many students are bilingual or multilingual, speaking multiple languages aside from English. Of the 7,000 languages spoken around the world, students and staff speak in a staggering 43 different tongues. Here are some student stories:

Csarina Jarencio
“I speak the Filipino dialect Tagalog. I was born in the Philippines and this is my first language. I moved to the United States when I was 15 years old and speaking my language serves as a reminder of my story and where I came from. Speaking Tagalog helps me preserve my culture and show my pride in being a Filipino.”

Emma Salehi
“I speak Spanish and in Farsi which is spoken in Iran. I learned Farsi when I was very young and I use it to communicate with my Iranian family members. Speaking Farsi helps me break down any language barriers and openly communicate with my family members from Iran. A large number of people speak Farsi in California, making it a useful language for where I live.”

Luz Parada
“My mother is Filipino and my second language is English. I learned English very young and in elementary school and fifth grade I moved to the United States when I was 11. It’s really cool speaking these languages because I can help teach my parents English. I can speak with people who speak Spanish and English, which opens more doors of communication.”

Sevak Harutyunyan
“I speak Armenian, Turkish and English. I have spoken these three languages for as long as I can remember. I was born in Glendale where there is a large community of Armenian people. Speaking these languages has affected my life in the way that I get to be part of an Armenian community and people from different communities and countries.”

Mark Ro
“I speak English and Korean. Korean is my second language and I learned it at a very young age before I can even remember. I mainly speak English but I speak Korean at home. Learning Korean let me communicate with my family because most of them live in Korea. Also, by knowing English I can help my mom with money issues, if they need help to sell I can help.”

Raine Torres
“I speak Japanese and English fluently. Because I’m mixed people don’t usually expect me to speak Japanese but I learned it when I was very young and Japanese people who speak English in my community can speak with tourists. I’m able to engage and relate to more people.”

Tayeba Chowdhury
“I speak English and Bangla. I was born in Bangladesh and went to school there until the 9th grade. It’s definitely hard to know two languages. It helps when I’m speaking with my parents’ friends or with relatives visiting from Bangladesh. It’s also helpful because I travel to Bangladesh a lot and being fluent in both allows me to speak both very easily with people and with my Bangali friends, we sometimes talk in Bangali when we want to talk about a private matter that we don’t want other people to interpret.”

From the hallways of Van Nuys to the corridors of YALE

By Ani Tutunjyan
“From answering buzzer questions about the chemical makeup of CuO to participating in women’s marches, Luciana Soria-Robles really does it all. Well maybe not all, but she checked all the right boxes for the 2020 Yale admissions staff. The day before I found out, I received an email from my admissions officer requesting a phone call in regards to my application to Yale,” said Soria-Robles. “She called me the next day and opened with ‘Welcome to the Yale Class of 2024.’”

Her eyes filled with tears as she sat in her room in disbelief. After escaping her deep gaze, she ran to her mother’s room to tell her the news. "I told her ‘We teared up!’ However, Soria-Robles did not get here overnight. In fact, she spent many nights up, well past her bedtime and under the covers just before sunrise. She was juggling between Advanced Placement (AP) courses, school clubs and social life. "I’ve been president of my women’s empowerment club called Dream It Be It for two years now. I created another club in freshman year called Relay for Life and this year I am Co-Captain of the Science Olympiad team," she said. "Throughout these four years, I’ve taken 20 [AP] classes overall, and with the tests this year, I have taken 21 [AP] exams."

Soria-Robles believes that the school provided numerous opportunities and flexibility in taking AP classes and joining and creating clubs. "I am thankful for everything Van Nuys has provided me with."

Although she finds these resources useful, she believes it is what a student chooses to do with these resources that makes a difference. "There’s a saying my friend would always tell me that was essentially ‘The mouth that doesn’t ask for food doesn’t get fed.’” Soria-Robles said. “In other words, if you never ask for something, there’s no way you’re going to get it. I do think any program from any school like that, if you’re willing to ask for what you want, you’ll be able to achieve a lot of things and open opportunities for yourself.”

She considers transparency and honesty as the best way to stand out in a large application pool. “I did my best to make sure that my personal statement created a vivid image and representation of my life,” she said. “I wanted them to see how I surmounted many struggles and obstacles and how I learned from them would help me thrive in their college.”

Soria-Robles achieved this by showing her passion and how she became involved in them throughout her life. "Towards the end of my interview, I remember I mentioned that I was passionate about feminism. My interviewer’s first reaction, ‘Oh! That makes so much sense!’ I think that was the best example of how everything in my application, extracurriculars and values kind of all together’.” Although Soria-Robles has not committed to Yale, she plans to pursue a major that will allow her to be a voice for underrepresented communities in education and immigration.

She anticipates finding new opportunities in a private institution like Yale from internships to study abroad programs. “You can get a great education anywhere, but for me this extra support was something I was really looking for.”
PRIVACY & SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

YOU'RE WATCHING
For safety’s sake: Facial recognition technology is coming to schools

By KAYLA LEE & PILAR SIMS
THE MIRROR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

We are able to connect with anyone and everyone any time we want. But users can control how much of their personal data gets exposed to the internet.

The problem with social media is people wanting to be everywhere at the same time, and the new technology is creating easier ways for them to do so. The result is that people are being tracked and surveillance cameras in the U.S. are watching you.

There are an estimated 30 million surveillance cameras in the U.S. watching you. Your computer is watching you. Your Facebook is watching you. Cameras are everywhere. They’re in street corners, in banks, in supermarkets and even in your home. They’re everywhere. They’re watching you. And they’re recording your every move. The average person in the U.S. sees cameras around 75 times a day.

Most people are familiar with artificial intelligence (AI) technology through Alexa, personal assistants on phones and computers, and Google Home. And Amazon. Alexa devices allow you to control your smart devices with your voice. Amazon is training its AI to understand and respond to your commands. And it’s learning from you. It’s listening to you. It’s watching you.

The system has billions of data points that are being collected and then analyzed. And then it’s learning. It’s getting smarter. And it’s getting more powerful.

Facial recognition technology is being used in schools. The technology is being used in schools to keep students safe. And it’s being used in schools to keep schools safe. And it’s being used in schools to keep teachers safe. And it’s being used in schools to keep administrators safe. And it’s being used in schools to keep everyone safe.

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Is astrology a pseudoscience?

YES: “Stop finding comfort in the false hope of horoscopes.”

RUBEN COCILION

With the growing popularity of horoscopes, what your zodiac sign is, what it means and what your birth sign is, I’ve come to wonder if any of it is valid or real in any way.

Horoscopes are the forecast of someone’s future based on the position of the stars and planets at the time of their birth. Your zodiac or astrological sign is based on the month and date you were born.

How can the month you were born have any indication of what type of person you will be?

The answer is no.

It’s amusing how astrology supporters believe their sign can predict their character and behavior.

Horoscopes are nothing more than a form of entertainment and fantasy. People can read them and enjoy them, but they are nothing more than superstition. People won't let them go. There is even a professional association: the American Federation of Astrologers. Founded in 1938, the group certifies astrologers so that they can go out into the world to interpret birth charts.

Believing in horoscopes and the stereotypes of birth signs is equivalent to believing in magic. Astrology may be an ancient art, but it is a pseudoscience. It pretends to be a science, but it has no basis in science or even in reality.

In 1948 psychologist Bertram Foner conducted an experiment in which he gave his students a personality test. After completing the test, each student was given an analysis of their test that was said to be “unique.” In reality, every student received the same analysis and were asked to rate the accuracy of the analysis on a scale from 0 to 5. On average, the students found the analysis to be 85 percent accurate.

The concept of subjective validation — the belief that two unrelated events are related because they are expected to be — was proven through this experiment. The same concept applies. Even if horoscopes and astrology stereotypes are inaccurate, believers choose to believe that they are believable. Desperately turn to astrology for hope and answers during troubling times. If they’re having a bad day, their daily horoscope can convince them that things will improve. Millennials, ages 18 to 33, and Gen Xers, ages 34 to 47, report the highest stress levels, with adults 40 and under being the least religious generations. Both groups often turn to astrology to provide guidance and comfort to combat the stress they face.

Astrology has also been used to justify immoral behavior. Toxic personal traits are attributed by some believers as say something along the lines of “it’s because I’m a (insert zodiac sign here)!” Instead of choosing to correct offending behavior, they blame it on their zodiac sign, which is ignorant — and annoying. Instead, take accountability for poor choices and bad behavior instead of blaming it on planets and their alignments.

Although it’s true that astrology can be entertaining, there are limits to how much we should allow it to influence our lives. If your daily horoscope makes or breaks your day, or you choose your partners or friends based on their zodiac signs, you’ve exceeded those limits.

I’m able to see past the games and gimmicks of astrology and you can too.

Stop finding comfort in the false hope of horoscopes. Stop following the trend of believing what you want to hear.

Life doesn’t always meet our expectations and it shouldn’t be blamed on stars.

What’s more, most people have experienced a moment where something aligns with our zodiac sign. I believe that there is something to astrology. I’ve worked with countless therapists and counselors to help people find peace.

The universe has a plan for all of us.

NO: “Life isn’t random. The universe has a plan for all of us.”

MONICA MAZARIEGOS

Every Monday you can check Celebnoah’s Snapchat story for your weekly horoscope, hoping to get a glimpse of what you can expect in your life for the upcoming week. Similar to a weather forecast, horoscopes determine your current and future circumstances based on the positions of the planets and stars during your birth time. Apps such as Co-star and The Pattern tailor your daily horoscope based on your birth chart which uses your name, birth date, birth time and location.

Astrology’s popularity has been on the rise since it was embraced by the “Free Love” movement of the 60s and 70s. During this time, a growing interest in spirituality occurred which led to the creation of organized religion by young people promoting being in touch with the universe. Astrology provided a way to do this.

Astrology is classified as a pseudoscience today, but this doesn’t take away from its legitimacy. While many people discredit claims made by astrologists, it is not fair to shut astrology down so quickly.

Astrologers have been studying the relationship between people and the universe for thousands of years, starting with the Babylonians in around 3000 B.C.

The 13th sign

The Babylonians used the 12 signs, but the Babyonians used in around 12 month calendar so they dropped serpent-bearer Ophiuchus.

SOURCE: CARTOON NETWORK

Monica Mazariegos

The Mirror
**Separating the art from the artist**

**JIMENA MARTINEZ**

The child molestation allegations against R. Kelly did not stop fans from listening to his music. Chris Brown admitting to allegedly abusive behavior towards his ex-girlfriend Rihanna did not stop his music sales either.

Notorious B.I.G’s alleged exploitation of Lil’ Kim while she was a minor is overlooked as fans still see him as an icon.

Fame and money do not justify immoral behavior; but we should keep in mind that artists are not much different from any of us. We do not expect each other to be perfect and we should hold artists to the same standard. Artists are humans who make mistakes and with proper remorse, there is a possibility for redemption. Artists can still be respected and appreciated for their content but not admired as a person. The idea of separating the artist from the art is possible.

In extreme cases, careers are ruined because of the link between artists and their art. Dixie Chicks’ guitarist Natalie Maines is one example where the failure to separate the art from the artist resulted in the downfall of a career. In 2003, Maines expressed her political views about then-President George W. Bush and got huge backlash. She was trashed by the public and radio stations refused to play the group’s music.

After apologizing repeatedly she was still unable to regain all the respect she lost. Artists should be allowed to express their opinions just like everyone else can. Freedom of expression is a right we all share. Maines and other artists should not lose their careers or lose respect for their personal opinions.

In Michael Jackson’s documentary “Leaving Neverland,” two men accused Michael of sexually abusing them as children. The documentary revealed how the singer used his fame to gain the trust of the victims’ families in order to get closer to them. But such allegations did not stop fans from listening to his music. Jackson’s fans knew how to separate the artist from their art which is why he is still remembered and thought of as an icon today.

But being an artist does not mean criminal or immoral behavior is justified. Artists should definitely be held accountable for their actions, but shunning them is unnecessary. Especially after they’ve understood their mistake and apologized. Artists should be judged for their wrongdoings like the rest of us. But that does not automatically mean you should boycott their work because the art they create is different from who they are.

**Source:** CREATIVE COMMONS

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**Parents: It’s 2020. Stop telling us which races we can date**

**ADRIANA CONTRERAS**

Parents can be overbearing. They encourage us to get good grades, stay out of trouble and even lay down the rules of dating as we get older.

They control us and the decisions we make because they want to ensure that we have a bright future. Not wanting to let our parents down, we are sometimes scared to go against their word or stray away from the path they’ve set for us.

Some teenagers have the freedom to make their own choices but those who are not as fortunate find themselves being cautious with their decisions, fearing the disapproval of their parents.

This is especially true with romantic relationships.

When we are the apple of our parents’ eye, we want nothing more than to please them. Most teens would much rather conceal their relationships instead of being seen as a disappointment who falls short of expectations.

I was raised in a predominantly Hispanic community. My parents encouraged me to bring home a man who is the same race and religion as me when I was old enough to date. Under the impression that their thinking was reasonable and that they had my best interests at heart, I never questioned them.

It wasn’t until high school when I realized how wrong my parents’ thinking was. The student body is very diverse and school provides the opportunity to meet people of different backgrounds and ethnicities.

High school expanded my cultural awareness. My dad always tells me things like, “You have to be with Latino man that is hardworking and a ‘macho’ man.” I realized my peers experience the same thing.

“My dad would tell me I could date as long as it wasn’t a Mexican,” said Alisha Zaman, a student of Bengali heritage. “My aunt and uncle married outside of our culture and religion,” said Samir. “We ignored my father’s comments because we knew he would continue to practice Islam and have children who will practice it as well,” said Alisha Zaman, a student of Bengali heritage. ‘My aunt and uncle married outside of our culture and religion and I was constantly told that I better not end up like them.’

Zaman went on to explain that her parents’ limited way of thinking have driven her to resent her culture and religion.

Our parents should not pressure us about who we should date because it is outdated and results in us resenting them. When we were younger we may have believed that our parents always knew best, but as we mature and learn from our own experiences, we form our own opinions.

Besides, times have changed. Race, ethnicity, religion and even gender are outdated concepts that should no longer limit who we choose to date.

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**Source:** CREATIVE COMMONS
A new era of flexible flip Phones

By MILTON NAJARO
THE MIRROR STAFF

Samsung is changing the game with their newly released Galaxy Z Flip. Released in February, the Z Flip is a revolutionary foldable smartphone.

Compared to the Galaxy Fold — Samsung’s first folding phone — the Z Flip is a game-changer because of its upgrades. The Fold went on sale last September.

The Z Flip went on sale last September.

The screen is made out of an ultra-thin glass that has a thickness similar to a strand of hair, allowing it to be flexible enough to fold. To combat damage, Samsung added a protective plastic coating for more durability but the screen is still extremely fragile. There are no screen protectors that can accommodate the technology. Some users are reporting bubbles and separation of the screen’s layers.

Similar to Samsung’s past releases, the Z Flip can charge wirelessly through a Qi-certified pad. A fingerprint sensor on the side of the phone allows users to have easy access. The phone closes completely in half providing the benefit of a bigger phone while taking up less pocket space.

The “7” that appears on the album’s cover is the representation of the number members and years that they have spent with each other since they debuted in 2013. Some diehard fans are convinced that the “7” in the album’s name foreshadows an upcoming album titled “Map of The Soul: Ego” since “7” in Korean is pronounced as “ilgob” which also sounds like the word for “ego.”

“Total” is a slow track by the youngest member of the group, Jungkook. The song has the way of telling us how he yearns to live those teenage years he’s missed because he joined BTS. “It brought me and many others to tears,” fan Ayusha Bhusan said.

The highlight track “Black Swan” was inspired by American dancer and choreographer Martha Graham’s quote “A dancer dies twice — once when they stop dancing — and this first death is the more painful.” The song poetically expresses the struggles that an artist goes through, particularly how art is life and how difficult it is to bid art farewell.

Along with the compelling songwriting, the album is filled with deep messages.

“The lyrics are just so real and beautifully written, and you can easily tell that a lot of thought was put into each verse,” Bushra said. “They talk about how they struggle as artists, but they’re constantly motivated to push through and not let the hateful criticism of people overtake them because their ARMY are here for them.”

Fans have been moved by the group’s humbleness and authenticity; despite their growing fame.

The album creates an intimate connection with ARMY by encapsulating the band’s growth over the past seven years. The song “We Are Bulletproof: the Eternal” demonstrates how far they’ve come. “It’s about how they were made fun of before they got big when their fans came along,” said Kate Martinez, who thinks the song really hits home. “The entire song is just a poetic question about what makes us so special, and about how we as ARMY changed BTS’s lives.”

BTS rose to prominence by changing the face of K-Pop itself, as well as the standards for boy bands. In 2018, BTS became the first South Korean boy band to debut an album at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart, with “Love Yourself: Tear.” They also made YouTube History in 2019 as the biggest debut for a music video with their song “Boy with Luv” featuring singer-songwriter Halsey.

With 463 million views in the first 24 hours, the video for “On” is the fifth-biggest YouTube debut ever. The song appears twice on the album — once with the group itself and also as a collaboration remix with Sia, an Australian singer-songwriter. The music video references popular movies, including “Lion King,” “Bird Box,” “The Maze Runner” and “The Chronicles of Narnia” to visually portray their emotions and struggles.

The album itself had 4,003 million pre-orders and over 2.1 million streams on Spotify within 24 hours of its release. Jimin’s solo track, “Filter” which highlights both prejudice and Jimin’s wish to present himself to the world in many different ways, set the record as the “Biggest 24 Hour Debut” by a Korean solo on Spotify. The group’s hard work has increasingly gained them worldwide recognition with each new release. In the U.S., the band counts more and more fans, adding to the growing millions worldwide.
Mash Ultrafast. 

Avatars: The Last Airbender

The Avatar is a master of all four elements: earth, water, fire, and air. The show was set in a world where these elements were controlled by different nations. The main character, Aang, was the last living Avatar, a being who could control all four elements and bring peace to the world. The show had a great impact on its viewers and was praised for its animation, storytelling, and message of peace.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are four anthropomorphic turtles who were given a mutation to gain human-like features except for their faces. They lived in a subway station and fought various opponents while using their unique weapons and abilities. The show was known for its action-packed scenes and catchy theme song.

Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!

Scooby-Doo and his gang were on adventures solving mysteries and fighting monsters. The show was popular and unforgettable. The iconic opening line “Call me, Beep me, If you wanna reach me” has stuck in the minds of many kids who grew up with the Disney Channel.

Kim Possible

Kim Possible was a teenage girl who worked as a high school student and a secret agent. She was clever, resourceful, and brave, and she had to solve problems and protect the world from various enemies. The show was known for its action, humor, and positive messages.

Dexter's Laboratory

Dexter was a smart but mischievous boy who loved creating bizarre inventions. His sister DeeDee and competing rival was Mandark. The show was popular and unforgettable. The iconic opening line “The iconic opening line “Call me, Beep me, If you wanna reach me” has stuck in the minds of many kids who grew up with the Disney Channel.

Johnny Bravo

Johnny Bravo was a confident, prideful, and macho character. He was a 9-year-old animated series that aired in the late 1990s. The show was well-received and had a cult following. The iconic opening line “Johnny Bravo, an egoistic 8-year-old, Confidently prideful and macho, Johnny Bravo...” has stuck in the minds of many kids who grew up with the Disney Channel.

Phineas and Ferb

Phineas and Ferb were two step-brothers who loved inventing and having fun. They spent their summer vacation driving their sister insane by turning their backyard into a construction site for all their dangerous inventions. They were popular and unforgettable. The iconic opening line “Two step brothers, Phineas and Ferb, want to have the best 104 days of their lives. They spend their summer vacation driving their sister insane by turning their backyard into a construction site...” has stuck in the minds of many kids who grew up with the Disney Channel.

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**Girls Softball Back to Basics**

By ANDRE RODAS

The season is right around the corner for the new varsity softball team. The team is currently rebuilding its roster after the coaching change that transpired last season. As of now, the players are working back to the basics and fundamentals says Coach Joe. “Some of them have bad habits that we’re trying to fix.” Practice drills have consisted of infield, outfield, pop ups and picks.

The team is working closer to together thanks to the structure Coach Joe has introduced, along with his high expectations. “While bonds were made it all worth it,” Reyes said. “At Birmingham it was a big school — big title — but I wasn’t really happy there. I didn’t feel like I fit in exactly how I do now and I’m really happy I did this change.”

As of right now the girls have been preparing since January 1st but things are going to be different. “The energy here just feels so much more intense,” Reyes said. “While bonds were being made it all worth it.”

**Mrs. Joe Avila**

Joe Avila, a 1991 graduate of the Wolves, has been coaching girls softball since 2010. As one of the oldest athletes on the team, Joe Avila is still the baseball coach. As of right now they’re going back to the basics and fundamentals says Coach Joe. “Some of them have bad habits that we’re trying to fix.” Practice drills have consisted of infield, outfield, pop ups and picks.

The team is currently rebuilding itself. New additions like junior Rafaela Reyes, a transfer student from Bir-


dham, will be playing in her first season for the Wolves. “The energy here just feels so much more intensely,” Reyes said. “At Birmingham it was a big school — big title — but I wasn’t really happy there. I didn’t feel like I fit in exactly how I do now and I’m really happy I did this change.”

As of right now the team is going back to the basics and fundamentals says Coach Joe. “Some of them have bad habits that we’re trying to fix.” Practice drills have consisted of infield, outfield, pop ups and picks.

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ived it. “The energy here just feels so much more intense,” Reyes said. “While bonds were being made it all worth it.”

**Ruby Dunmore**

Girls Soccer

Ruby Dunmore, a transfer student from Bir-
haven, will be playing in her first season for the Wolves. “The energy here just feels so much more intense,” Reyes said. “While bonds were being made it all worth it.”

**Mawil Hassan**

Swimming

Mawil Hassan, who graduated from the Chicago Cubs baseball team, helped form the All- American Girls Softball League in 1943. A league of their own

**Girls Softball Back to Basics**

Joe Avila found success as a baseball coach, winning a championship in 2013. Can he do the same with softball?
**Girls basketball surges to playoffs; Eliminated in quarterfinal match**

By ANDRE RODAS
THE MIRROR SPORTS EDITOR

33

**31.** That was the final score of an intense quarterfinal battle for the girls basketball team against Eagle Rock High School as they eliminated the Wolves in the Division I CIF LA City Section 2020 Playoffs on Feb. 18.

It was a very painful game. Captain Jennifer Lee said, “Although this game was an end to a chapter, I am confident this game was not an end to a story.”

Despite the loss, it was an impressive season all around as they finished first in the league with only one defeat in nine matches by the opponent. Lee believes that their toughest – Kennedy High School, which finished the season with a 7-1 overall record.

“Unlike last year, Kennedy’s defense came out strong and very tactical. We bumped heads mentally-wise.”

The girls also went on to win back-to-back Valley Mission League Championships. Coach Elizabeth Lezama said this was a first for the program.

Last season the girls participated in Division II, winning the league, with only one defeat in all their matches. This has been an issue since last season.

**Last year were met and I am confident we can do much better than before.**

“I do believe the goals for this year were met and I am confident that the girls will work hard once again to achieve a milestone—which is to win a Division I championship.”

By ANDRE RODAS & EDUARDO CAMERENA
THE MIRROR STAFF

**33**

The season was all about improvement for the wrestling team.

Team captain Bryan Merida was able to take fifth place in the 182-lb weight class at the City tournament and placed second at the Delphi Tournament held in San Fernando High School. Next year as a senior he plans to do even better.

“My expectations for myself are to make it to city finals and ultimately compete in state.”

Merida is happy with the improvement he’s seen in his teammates. While he doesn’t have anyone particularly in mind, he does think that one group of underclassmen has shown great strides.

“I’ve noticed a lot of improvement from the freshmen that showed up to practice and tournaments. As it’s my third year being in wrestling, I was able to see their first tournaments and in their last few matches they showed incredible growth as well as in the practice room as they came in ready to win their next match.”

Last month they took home fourth place out of the 12 schools that competed in the CIF LA City Section 3 Regional competition. They finished behind third-place winner Palisades, second-place winner Sylmar, and first-place San Fernando.

“I feel that as a team we have done much better than last year and really continued the momentum we had from the previous year to show great improvement in all our wrestlers,” said Merida.

As the next season approaches he hopes more people will join the team as the lack of athletes caused some challenges. This has been an issue since last season.

“Some of our best wrestlers were seniors so losing them definitely hurt. However thanks to them the rest of us were able to grow. They helped us improve in technique and strength-wise.”

With his final season quickly approaching he hopes to meet all his individual and team goals and thanks coaches Ramon Tovar and Arnold Baltodano for their leadership.

“I’d like to say thank you to Ms. [Yolanda] Garibay and Mr. (Marc) Straussner for always supporting us and believing in our team. We have nine returning athletes who have all improved and who are already back in the room. I’m hoping we can get more boys and girls next year and I’m very proud of what the team has accomplished,” said Coach Tovar.
Combining elements of football, soccer and basketball, Ultimate Frisbee is Max Schmidt’s passion

By ANDRE RODAS
THE MIRROR SPORTS EDITOR

Ultimate Frisbee runs through Max Schmidt’s veins.

“I’ve been playing for around six to seven years at this point,” Schmidt explains. “I play in a club team, one of two in Los Angeles.”

He admits that his mother, Mariana Rodrigues, influenced him to take up the sport. She was a national level college player at Carlson College, a private liberal arts school in Northfield, Minnesota. The team is widely considered to be one of the best.

Schmidt thinks he inherited her skills.

“I’d consider myself to be pretty good,” he said with a smile on his face. “However the team I’m on isn’t nationally ranked or anything like that.”

Schmidt plays for the Los Angeles Aviators, a youth ultimate frisbee club. There he’s faced off against skilled individuals such as Danny Landesman, who is now playing professionally for the Los Angeles Aviators.

Although Schmidt has played other sports before, nothing really hooked him the way Ultimate Frisbee does.

“Ultimate Frisbee is a good mix of sports. There are elements of football, soccer and even basketball in the game, which is something that I find so interesting.”

People have been taking to open fields to toss frisbees since they were first sold as a toy in 1957 by Wham-O, the company responsible for the Hula Hoop and Water Wiggle. By 1977, over 100 million discs had been sold.

Ultimate Frisbee has been around for 50 years and the creation of it was just sheer luck.

It all started when a young, Joel Silver, who has produced huge films such as “The Matrix,” “The Hard” and “Sherlock Holmes,” presented the idea of using the popular disc in a team sport to his high school’s student council in 1969.

The first teams were formed at Silver’s high school in Maplewood, New Jersey. In 1970, Silver, along with two other classmates, came up with the rules that are still used today.

The official rules can be a bit complicated. Games are played on a field very similar to a football field. The offensive team lines up in front of their end zone line, while the defensive team throws the disc to the team on the offensive end. Players cannot run with a disc and have only ten seconds to throw a pass. When the offense is able to complete a pass on the defensive end, it’s a point for them. While the games aren’t high scoring, each point is incredibly important and holds a lot of value.

Games last for 36 minutes and are divided into two 18-minute halves. It hasn’t been all fun for Schmidt and the Wildfires. One of the biggest problems the team faces is getting players to consistently show up for practices and even for games. Schmidt states that a well-prepared team usually has “12-14 players, while we only have 7-9 depending on whether players show up or not.”

He’s also encountered people that are skeptical of Ultimate Frisbee even being a sport. But he’s never let that fase him.

“I’d say you can’t knock on it until you try it. It’s a lot of fun and I’ve enjoyed it a lot more than any other sport,” he answers.

The Los Angeles Wildfire player admits he was a bit disappointed when he found out Van Nuys didn’t have an ultimate frisbee team because he knows both La Querra and Banta Monica high schools do. The thought of trying to start one did cross his mind, but he decided to stay silent on the subject.

“I was never confident enough to start it up myself.”

One thing that leads a lot of people from pursuing Ultimate Frisbee as a full time job is the pay. Schmidt describes it as a “niche” sport compared to the reception baseball and basketball receive.

“I’d say if a professional Ultimate Frisbee player gets paid around $30 bucks a game,” he said. According to the Chicago Tribune, most American Ultimate Disc League (AUDL) players make anywhere between $650-$740 per season, while a few of the top players can make around $1,400 per season — not nearly enough to make a living.

“I think it definitely has the possibility of gaining traction but that’s just the sad reality.”

Over the last couple of years the sport has been on a big rise with some games being nationally televised on sports broadcast powerhouses such as ESPN.

While his future in the sport remains uncertain, Schmidt hopes he’ll have the chance to play at a college level if he’s given the opportunity. “It’s definitely a hobby, not a lifestyle.”

As of right now, Schmidt and the rest of the Wildfires are preparing for an upcoming spring tournament where they hope to dominate despite being a bit short on athletes.

“My hopes for the future is that Ultimate Frisbee won’t be looked down upon and that anyone who’d like to play it should have the chance to do so.”